

Official Comments under the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act:

(note: **eleemosynary nature** = (from dictionary.com: 1) of or pertaining to alms, charity, or charitable donations, charitable; 2) derived from or provided by charity. 3 dependent on or supported by charity: an *eleemosynary educational institution*.)

The Uniform Act applies generally to colleges, universities, hospitals, religious organizations and other institutions of an eleemosynary nature. It applies to a governmental organization to the extent that the organization holds funds for the listed purposes, e.g., a public school which has an endowment fund.

A non-governmental institution which is not "charitable" in the classic sense is not within the Act, even though it may hold funds for such purpose. If the fund is separate and distinct from the noncharitable organization, the fund itself may be an institution to which the Act applies.

An institutional fund is any fund held by an institution which it may invest for a long or short term. Excluded from the Act is any fund held by a trustee which is not an institution as defined in this Act, e.g., a bank or trust company, for the benefit of an institution even though the institution is the sole beneficiary.

A fund held by an institution for the benefit of any noninstitutional beneficiary is also excluded. The exclusion would apply to any fund with an individual beneficiary such as an annuity trust or a unitrust. When the interest of a noninstitutional beneficiary is terminated, the fund may then become an institutional fund.

The "use, benefit, or purposes" of an institution broadly encompasses all of the activities permitted by its charter or other source of authority. A fund to provide scholarships for students or medical care for indigent patients is held by the school or hospital for the institution's purposes. Such a fund is not deemed to be held for the benefit of a particular student or patient as distinct from the use, benefit, or purposes of the institution, nor does the student or patient have an interest in the fund as a "beneficiary which is not an institution."

The particular recipient of the aid of a charitable organization is not a "beneficiary" in the sense of a beneficiary of a private trust; only the Attorney General or similar public authority may enforce a charitable trust. 4 Scott, Law of Trusts § 348 pp. 2768-9 (3d ed. 1967); Bogert, The Law of Trusts and Trustees § 411-15 pp. 317-348 (2d ed. 1962).

An endowment fund is an institutional fund, or any part thereof, which is held in perpetuity or for a term and which is not wholly expendable by the institution. Implicit in the definition is the continued maintenance of all or a specified portion of the original gift. "Endowment fund" is specially defined because it is subject to the appropriation rules of [72-30-201, now repealed].

A restriction on use that makes a fund an endowment fund arises only from the applicable gift instrument. If a governing board has the power to spend all of a fund but, in its discretion, decides to invest the fund and spend only the yield or appreciation therefrom, the fund does not become an endowment fund under this definition, but it may be described as a "quasi-endowment fund" or a "fund functioning as endowment."

A fund which is not an institutional fund originally and therefore not an endowment fund may become an endowment fund at a later time. For example, a fund given to an institution to pay the grantor's widow a life income, with the remainder to the institution, would become an institutional fund on the widow's death, and, if the fund were not then wholly expendable, it would become an endowment fund at that time.

If a gift instrument provided that the institution could use the income from the fund for ten years and thereafter spend the entire principal, the fund would be an endowment fund for the ten-year period and would cease to be an endowment fund at the time it became wholly expendable.

The definition [of "governing board"] is meant to designate the policy making or management group which has the responsibility for the affairs of the institution or the fund.

"Historic dollar value" is simply the value of the fund expressed in dollars at the time of the original contribution to the fund plus the dollar value of any subsequent gifts to the fund. Accounting entries recording realization of gains or losses to the fund have no effect upon historic dollar value. No increase or decrease in historic dollar value of the fund results from the sale of an asset held by the fund and the reinvestment of the proceeds in another asset.

If the gift instrument directs accumulation, the historic dollar value will increase with each accumulation. For example, if a donor gives an institution \$300,000 and directs that the fund is to be accumulated until its value reaches \$500,000, the historic dollar value will be the aggregate value of \$500,000 at the time the fund becomes available for use by the institution.

If under the terms of the gift instrument a portion of an endowment fund, after passage of time or upon the happening of some event, becomes currently wholly expendable, such portion should be treated as a separate fund and the historic dollar value of the remaining endowment fund should be reduced proportionately.

A gift instrument establishes the terms of the gift. It may be a writing of any form, or it may result from the institution's solicitation activities, or the by-laws, or other rules of an existing fund.